[English]

We are taking up this work. I will definitely look into whatever complaint is there.

[Translation]

SHRI GULAM RASOOL KAR : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know whether the demand for upgrading the Srinagar Airport to an international airport and providing a route for Moscow-Tashkent-Srinagar-Delhi has been lying pending for the last 10-15 years? Secondly, just now you have mentioned that private airlines are plying on profitable routes and not on nonprofitable routes. What prompted the Government to allow private companies in public sector? The policy of the Government was to strengthen the public sector but you have given profitable routes to private sector and kept non-profitable routes for the Public Sector.

SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM : Perhaps, Mr. Kar has come well prepared for this supplementary.

SHRI GULAM RASOOL KAR : No, it is not so.

SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM : Whether the Government is contemplating to convert Srinagar airport into an international airport? The issue of Kashmir is being discussed at international level and our Government is trying to show that Kashmir is a part of our country. Our department is making efforts to air link Srinagar with other parts of the world. In respect of the route for Moscow, I would like to say that the Civil Aviation Department will decide it on the basis of the number of passengers. The areas where there is more traffic would be linked with this airports.

12.00 hrs.

Secondly, the hon. Member has said that private airlines do not operate on non-profitable routes, I would like to say that it is being monitored on monthly basis. There is a limit that the Private operators will have to use 12 percent non-commercial sector. I have instructed my department to take immediate action against those private airlines which are not operating on such routes. I would take action if any such matter is brought to my notice.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Development of Tourist Places of Orissa

*102. KUMARI SUSHILA TIRIYA : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have received any proposals from the State Government of Orissa for development of some districts into tourist spots;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA): (a) to (c). The Govt. of Orissa has identified South of Puri Town upto Chilka Lake as Special Tourism Area for development of Tourism in the State.

In addition the Department of Tourism has identified two Circuits in Orissa for intensive development. These are

1. Bhubaneswar-Lalitgiri-Ratnagiri-Udaygiri-Kendrapara-Chandbali-Bhadrak.
2. Harishankar-Narsinghanath-Hirakud-Sambalpur-Bed Yyas (Gandhamardhan Circuit).

The Department of Tourism in consultation with the State Govt. officials has prioritised 8 projects for central financial assistance amounting to Rs. 250 lakhs during 1996-97. The details are :

(a) Wayside amenities at Ghatgaon.

(b) Wayside amenities at Satpada.

(c) Refurbishment of monuments/heritage sites at Ratnagiri.

(d) Tourist Reception Centre and Information Centre at Ratnagiri with provision for drinking water, toilet facilities, Snack Bar and Souvenir Shop.

(e) Refurbishment of heritage site at Lalitgiri.

(f) Tourist Reception Centre and Information Centre at Lalitgiri with provision for drinking water, toilet facilities, Snack Bar and Souvenir Shop.

(g) Refurbishment of monuments/heritage site at Udaygiri and

(h) Tourist Reception and Cultural Information Centre at Kendra Parha.

A Detailed proposal for the wayside amenity at Ghatgaon has been received from the State Govt.

The Department of Tourism also prepared a project proposal for infrastructure development covering Dhauli, Nandankanan, Ratnagiri, Udaigiri, Lalitgiri, Pathrajpur, Kendra parha, Gupti, Bhadrak and Jajpur in Orissa at an estimated investment of Rs. 348 crores which has been posed for external aid.

[Translation]

Foreign Investment in Mining Sector

*106. SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH :
SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY :

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have invited